

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method in a data processing system for providing a single automation tool adapter within said data processing system for use with multiple different automation tools, said method comprising the steps of:

- each one of said automation tools being an application that interfaces with a device to enact a sequence of automated changes;

- said automation tool adapter including a queue listener;

- monitoring, by said queue listener, a plurality of clients by monitoring a request queue that is external to said automation tool adapter for messages;

- determining, by said queue listener, whether said request queue includes an automation message;

- said automation message including a request having parameters in an original format that are to be executed using one of said automation tools, said automation message including a message identifier that uniquely identifies said automation message and a source of said automation message;

- responsive to said queue listener determining that said request queue includes said automation message, said queue listener creating a verb dispatcher within said automation tool adapter;

- passing, by said queue listener, said automation message to said verb dispatcher;

- creating, by said verb dispatcher, an automation processor of a type that is required by said automation message;

- translating, by said verb dispatcher, said parameters from said original format to a second format that is required by said one of said automation tools to produce translated parameters;

- providing, by said verb dispatcher, said message including said message identifier and said translated parameters to said automation processor;

- constructing, by said automation processor, an automation tool command using said translated parameters;

- executing, by said one of said automation tools, said automation tool command, said automation tool command including said translated parameters;

- in response to a completion of execution of said automation tool command, said one of said automation tools sending a reply to a reply server that is included in said automation tool adapter, said reply being in said second format and including said message identifier;

- translating, by said reply server, said reply into said original format to form a translated reply; and

sending, by said reply server, said translated reply to a reply queue that is external to said automation tool adapter.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
providing a plurality of request queues;
said automation tool adapter including a plurality of queue listeners, each one of said plurality of request queues associated with one of said plurality of queue listeners; and
checking, by each one of said plurality of queue listeners, an associated one of said plurality of request queues for a message.
3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
each one of said plurality of request queues located in a different one of said plurality of clients.
4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
determining said second format required by said one of said automation tools utilizing a configuration file that includes a specification of a format for each one of said automation tools.
5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
said original format being an XML document format; and
translating said parameters from said XML document format to a flat file containing a set of name/value pairs, wherein said flat file format is said second format.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
including a unique message identifier in each one of a plurality of automation messages included in said request queue; and
tracking each one of said plurality of automation messages utilizing said unique identifier.
- 8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A data processing system including a single automation tool adapter for use with multiple different automation tools, comprising:
- each one of said automation tools being an application that interfaces with a device to enact a sequence of automated changes;
 - said automation tool adapter including a queue listener;
 - said queue listener monitoring a plurality of clients by monitoring a request queue that is external to said automation tool adapter for messages;
 - said queue listener determining whether said request queue includes an automation message;
 - said automation message including a request having parameters in an original format that are to be executed using one of said automation tools, said automation message including a message identifier that uniquely identifies said automation message and a source of said automation message;
 - responsive to said queue listener determining that said request queue includes said automation message, said queue listener creating a verb dispatcher within said automation tool adapter;
 - said queue listener passing said automation message to said verb dispatcher;
 - said verb dispatcher creating an automation processor of a type that is required by said automation message;
 - said verb dispatcher translating said parameters from said original format to a second format that is required by said one of said automation tools to produce translated parameters;
 - said verb dispatcher providing said message including said message identifier and said translated parameters to said automation processor;
 - said automation processor constructing an automation tool command using said translated parameters;
 - said one of said automation tools executing said automation tool command, which includes said translated parameters;
 - in response to a completion of execution of said automation tool command, said one of said automation tools sending a reply to a reply server that is included in said automation tool adapter, said reply being in said second format and including said message identifier;
 - said reply server translating said reply into said original format to form a translated reply; and
 - said reply server sending said translated reply to a reply queue that is external to said automation tool adapter.
11. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 10, further comprising:
- a plurality of request queues;

said automation tool adapter including a plurality of queue listeners, each one of said plurality of request queues associated with one of said plurality of queue listeners; and

each one of said plurality of queue listeners for checking an associated one of said plurality of request queues for a message.

12. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 11, further comprising:

each one of said plurality of request queues located in a different one of said plurality of clients.

13. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 10, further comprising:

a configuration file that includes a specification of a format for each one of said automation tools for determining said second format required by said one of said automation tools.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 10, further comprising:

said original format being an XML document format; and

said second format being a flat file containing a set of name/value pairs.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 10, further comprising:

a unique message identifier included in each one of a plurality of automation messages that are included in said request queue; and

said unique message identifier for tracking each one of said plurality of automation messages.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) A computer program product that is stored in a computer-readable medium in a data processing system for providing a single automation tool adapter, within said data processing system, for use with multiple different automation tools, said product comprising:

each one of said automation tools being an application that interfaces with a device to enact a sequence of automated changes;

said automation tool adapter including a queue listener;

instructions means for monitoring, by said queue listener, a plurality of clients by monitoring a request queue that is external to said automation tool adapter for messages;

instructions means for determining, by said queue listener, whether said request queue includes an automation message;

said automation message including a request having parameters in an original format that are to be executed using one of said automation tools, said automation message including a message identifier that uniquely identifies said automation message and a source of said automation message;

instructions means responsive to said queue listener determining that said request queue includes said automation message, for creating, by said queue listener, verb dispatcher within said automation tool adapter;

instructions means for passing, by said queue listener, said automation message to said verb dispatcher;

instructions means for creating, by said verb dispatcher, an automation processor of a type that is required by said automation message;

instructions means for translating, by said verb dispatcher, said parameters from said original format to a second format that is required by said one of said automation tools to produce translated parameters;

instructions means for providing, by said verb dispatcher, said message including said message identifier and said translated parameters to said automation processor;

instructions means for constructing, by said automation processor, an automation tool command using said translated parameters;

instructions means for executing, by said one of said automation tools, said automation tool command, said automation tool command including said translated parameters;

in response to a completion of execution of said automation tool command, instructions means for said one of said automation tools sending a reply to a reply server that is included in said automation tool adapter, said reply being in said second format and including said message identifier;

instructions means for translating, by said reply server, said reply into said original format to form a translated reply; and

instructions means for sending, by said reply server, said translated reply to a reply queue that is external to said automation tool adapter.

20. (Previously presented) The product according to claim 19, further comprising:

instruction means for providing a plurality of request queues;

said automation tool adapter including a plurality of queue listeners, each one of said plurality of request queues associated with one of said plurality of queue listeners; and

instruction means for checking, by each one of said plurality of queue listeners, an associated one of said plurality of request queues for a message.

21. (Previously presented) The product according to claim 20, further comprising:
each one of said plurality of request queues located in a different one of said plurality of clients.

22. (Previously presented) The product according to claim 19, further comprising:
instruction means for determining said second format utilizing a configuration file that includes a specification of a format for each one of said plurality of automation tools.

23. (Previously presented) The product according to claim 19, further comprising:
said original format being an XML document format; and
instruction means for translating said parameters from said XML document format to a flat file containing a set of name/value pairs, wherein said flat file format is said second format.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The product according to claim 19, further comprising:
instruction means for including a unique message identifier in each one of a plurality of automation messages that are included in said request queue; and
instruction means for tracking each one of said plurality of automation messages utilizing said unique message identifier.

26-27. (Canceled)